

We Hope to be Able to Give our Readers a Weekly Letter During the Session of the Legislature.

Ozark Boat Disappearing

There are styles in small water craft, just as there are in deep sea vessels—certain peculiarities of form and dimension adapting them to the uses of business or pleasure for which they are designed. In the northland of Maine and Canada, where the many lakes are connected by shallow and swift streams, there is the graceful and buoyant canoe evolved by the Indian. On the North Atlantic coast the standard small boat for all purposes is the dory, marvelously sea-worthy and staunch. In the sluggish, weed-choked bayous of the south there is the broad, flat scow, shallow of draft and clumsy of movement. And in the Ozark region of Southern Missouri and Northern Arkansas, where the streams are swift and rocky and crooked, the familiar type of boat has been what Marryat might have described as a "long, low, rakish, piratical looking craft," in form best suited to the environment. The last has no name other than "flat boat," and possesses some of the characteristics of the northern canoe, the water dory and the southern scow. It is long and narrow and buoyant, like the canoe; it rides high at stem and stern, after the fashion of the dory, and it has the flat bottom and straight sides of the scow.

The "flat boat" is not a thing of beauty. It has no graceful lines and is knocked together in haphazard fashion from a few pieces of rough lumber, economy in construction probably being due to the fact the craft usually is abandoned after an extended voyage down one of the swift Ozark streams. No paint adorns its sides, and its deck is provided with seats. It is propelled usually by means of a long paddle, or scull, that serves as a pole in working the boat up rapids and through dense masses of aquatic vegetation.

The Ozark "flat boat" in appearance bears a striking resemblance to a crudely constructed coffin, a gloomy comparison that is likely to be forced upon those who learn something of the craft's unstable and treacherous nature; for the "flat boat" is as tricky as a vicious broncho, and always chooses the wildest and most dangerous stretches of water in which to upset and rid itself of its burden of passengers and luggage.

The Ozark craft is perfectly satisfactory to the Ozark native, but its eccentricities do not appeal to the ever increasing army of outsiders that seeks recreation there. As a consequence, the "flat boat" is passing, and in a few summers more probably will be a rarity where once it was the only means of transportation known on the White, the Current, the Elk, and other much frequented rivers of the region. In its stead are coming the modern type of the Indian's canoe, the ponderous but safe scow, the conventional skiff, and on the larger water ways, the motor boat—Springfield Republican.

It may be so. It also may be that that the earth does not move, and the sun does. All we know, and we live in one section of the country the above article refers to, the White river country, is that the flat boat is the only practical craft for any of the rivers mentioned in the article above. A motor boat or a row boat cannot navigate these streams in ordinary seasons and that is the only time a boat is in demand on any of them. The ordinary flat boat, as we use the term in this country, is a flat-bottomed, straight-sided affair, with both ends elevated above the water line, and square. The paddler sits in the rear end and the fisherman stands on the front platform, or if there be two of them, the second stands at the middle of the boat, usually astride the middle seat. The writer has seen these boats usually have no seats. This is wrong. The flat boat usually has three. He seems to be talking about what we call a "gigging boat," which is long and narrow and without seats, as it is controlled together by the gigs in the hands of the fishermen, who usually work in pairs, one at each end of the boat, and with long-handled gigs or fish spears can navigate the streams in any direction they desire and over any current or shoal.

The row boat is impracticable on these streams on account of the shallow or riffle sections. An ordinary row boat would be at all. The flat-bottomed flat boat with a draught of but a few inches can get over these,

and guided by the power in the rear end with one paddle like a canoe can get anywhere on these swift streams. The above writer makes a great mistake in likening them to a canoe, and as to their upsetting qualities, they have none. It is almost impossible to tip one over. They are usually from three to three and one half feet wide, and about fourteen to sixteen feet long, with a platform at each end from twenty-four to thirty-six inches wide, and a seat in the middle of the craft. They will carry from six hundred to a thousand pounds and still float in very few inches of water. The only place that they are making their disappearance is where there have been bodies of still water, as on the big lake just above Forsyth. The flat boat is an institution. It is not a fad. It will last as long as these streams are fished by good sportsmen and that will be a long time yet. Disappearing? Well, we guess not.

"Let Them Fight It Out"

We find in a far removed but none the less esteemed contemporary, the Manila Times, published at the capital of the Philippine Islands, something which we believe to be a veritable, and, moreover, a great scoop of all the entire corps of Washington correspondents. The Manila Times shows a genuine American enterprise in paying heavy cable tolls to get important news from Washington. And that it knows important news when it gets it, the fact that it prints, in the middle of its front page, in deeply indented black letters, in a box, a Washington cable dispatch headed with the words which head this article, is proof enough.

The dispatch justifies the heading. It narrates how the president, at his weekly talk with the corps of Washington correspondents, let fall these words in answer to a question of whether he proposed taking any part in the war between Villa and Carranza. He gave evidence of having been much annoyed, says the cable, at rumors of a coming intervention by the United States and when asked for an expression of his opinion as to the course to be pursued in regard to the present hostilities between Carranza and Villa, he replied emphatically: "Let them fight it out."

The only reason we can assign for having had to wait for this good news to come all the way from Manila is that Mr. Wilson has enjoined upon the newspaper corps he receives once a week, that he shall not be quoted in anything he says there and then. Otherwise we should have had the glad tidings of this sign and promise of a return to a safe and sane Mexican policy emblazoned on the front pages of our own newspapers weeks ago. The date of the Manila Times carrying this proclamation of sense is December 13. It has taken long to bring the welcome news home, but who shall say, after this, that our distant colonial possessions are of no use to us? For though Mr. Wilson may yet deny that he said this sensible thing, we shall continue to hope and believe that he did say it.—Globe-Democrat.

Farmers' Week is Crowded Full

Farmers Week at the University of Missouri at Columbia, January 11-15, 1915, promises to be "bigger and better than ever." From the very first night's program, when Dr. H. J. Waters, president of the Kansas State Agricultural College and former dean of the College of Agriculture at Columbia will give illustrated lecture on world agriculture, the week promises to be as interesting as instructive.

The evening programs throughout the week will be held in the University auditorium under the auspices of the State Board of Agriculture. Named speakers will be in Columbia for these meetings.

During the day the short courses for everyone, and the special short courses for women, and also boys and girls, will be conducted by the faculty of the College of Agriculture. These short courses will begin at 8:30 o'clock and close at 1:30 o'clock. From six to ten lectures or demonstrations will be given each hour, so that it will be impossible for anyone to hear or see all. Each person will choose the courses they would rather take, the ones they are vitally interested in. Every subject of interest to

the farmer, his wife and his boy and girl, will be covered in these short courses.

During the afternoons, fifteen of the twenty state organizations connected with agriculture, will hold their annual corn show at Columbia during the week, and has offered a large number of valuable premiums. There will also be judging contest, both corn and stock, for both boys and girls under the auspices of the Boys' and Girls' clubs of the state. The state clubs will have an exhibit at Columbia during the week.

The crowning event of the week will be the big banquet given by the University of Missouri to the visiting farmers Friday night, January 15, at close of the week. One of the prize steers will be killed for this big feast, and everything served will be from the agricultural college farm.

Last year there were more than 2600 farmers there during the week registering from ninety-two counties of the state and from eighteen other states. It looks like there will be at least 3000 there this year.

Conditions are improving in the Philippines. The police force can cope with the rebellions now.

The gentleman who confesses that he has been married three times with in the past six months may occupy his approaching leisure by writing a book of hints to bashful bachelors.

PUBLIC ENEMIES

If you build a line of railway over hills and barren lands,
Giving lucrative employment to about a million lands;
If you cause a score of cities by your right-of-way to rise,
Where there formerly was nothing but some rattlesnakes and flies;
When bringing kate to others you acquire a little kale,
Then you've surely robbed the peepul and you ought to be in jail.

If by planning and by toiling you have won some wealth and fame,
It will make no odds how squarely you have played your little game;
Your success is proof sufficient that you are a public foe—
You're a soulless malefactor; to the dump you ought to go.
It's a crime for you to prosper where so many others fail.
You have surely robbed the peepul and you ought to be in jail.

Be a chronic politician, deal in superheated air;
Roast the banks and money barons, there is always safety there;
But to sound a note of business is a crime so mean and base,
That a fellow guilty of it ought to go and hide his face.
Change the builders' song triumphant for the politicians' wail,
Or we'll think you've robbed the peepul and we'll pack you off to jail.

—Walt Mason, in the "Journal of Electricity, Power and Gas."

Doing Something for Business

There can be but one opinion of the administration's action in notifying Great Britain that unwarrantable seizure and detention of cargoes not contraband under international laws and usages, being transported in neutral vessels and under neutral flags, must cease, in so far as the commerce of this country is concerned. The feeling must be and will be one of hearty approval, mixed with a degree of wonder as to why this action has been so long postponed. Within a month after the opening of hostilities cargoes consigned from ports in this country to neutral ports in Holland were not only searched by officers boarding the vessels from British men-of-war, but were seized and conveyed into British ports, to remain impounded there until, at the close of the war, the Government of Great Britain will take up and consider the question of damages due the American consignors. The British contention at that time, and in the particular case, was that the cargo, while not contraband under the generally accepted definition of the word, was "conditional contraband" under some form of agreement made at the London Conference a few years ago which Great Britain assumed as a belligerent, to have the right of interpreting for herself.

The Washington administration appears to have accepted for sometime this wholly ex parte view of the rights of a belligerent and the obligations of a neutral. Such a contention could be seen to leave neutrals without rights but with obligations only. It appears, from the language of the pro-

test now made, that this is the first challenge of the right of Great Britain to make such seizures and detentions which Washington has sent to London. In the meantime the scope of operations against our commerce has widened. The representation we have now made pleads our earlier patience as an excuse, and urges the heavy and continuing losses to our commerce, under such close restricting, as a justification of now serving notice that hereafter we shall insist upon regarding neutral obligations and claiming neutral rights only as they are declared by international law and custom. The declaration of our purpose seems to have been made clear and specific, so far as we are able to gather its purport from dispatches which can not be expected to follow the exact text of such a document. What seems plain is that, even after the note had been carefully revised by Mr. Wilson, it still carried the clear notification of our purpose to insist upon all of the rights of a neutral nation in dealing not only with other neutral nations, but with the belligerents themselves in all lines of trade and commerce not specifically closed to us by laws and customs governing neutral relations to which nations have given common assent.

It is possible to see this declaration of our intention in the citation of Lord Salisbury's acceptance of our position, made during the Boer war, that foodstuffs destined for the civilian popu-

Texas' Governor Brands Wilson Regime
Greatest Failure

Governor Colquitt of Texas has made public a signed statement in which he arraigns the Wilson administration as the "greatest failure in the history of the presidency," and predicts the overwhelming defeat of the national democracy in 1916. Colquitt retires from the governorship January 18th, and is a candidate for the democratic nomination to succeed Culberson in the senate. Following are some striking extracts from his statement:

"The south has made one of the biggest and best crops in its history, yet because of the utter incompetence of the men in charge of the government its business is prostrated, its credit is impaired and thousands of its people are starving. The administration's foreign policy has been imbecile. England stopped American cotton shipments until the English spinners bought their supply at 6 1/2 cents a pound and stored it in Texas and other southern warehouses. Our government weakly submitted to England's dictation, playing into the hands of the English spinners and betraying American cotton growers as completely as if the country were an English vassal state.

"If I had been president I would have served notice on England's premier that our foreign trade in cotton and other abundant commodities was going forward with or without England's consent, and if necessary I would have sent American ironclads to England's door to enforce the notice. "The Wilson Bryan management of the Mexican affair has been an egregious failure. They have stood by, encouraging one gang of bandits after another, while people were being butchered all over Mexico and while the vast American interests in that country were being confiscated and shot to pieces, and today the Mexican chaos is worse than at any time since Madero was assassinated. Our government has kept England and Germany from restoring order in Mexico, and has itself done nothing but contribute to the disorder and lawlessness by their 'watching and waiting' policy.

"The propped interests of Mexico and the big American exploiters of Mexican resources have got control of the situation absolutely, and these same interests have got the ear of our government at Washington. "The administration's tariff law was pledged to lower the cost of living, and has had the contrary effect. The American farmer gets less for his raw materials, the American workman pays more for the finished product, and both are robbed to further enrich the protected manufacturing trusts and combines. The administration's anti-trust laws are barefaced fakes, so far as protecting the people from trust oppression is concerned.

I am fully convinced the national election of 1916 will end the democratic regime. The policies of the democratic national administration have wholly failed either to curb monopolies or to lower the cost of living for the people, and have materially contributed to deprive millions of wage earners of employment. "The administration valorized \$20,000,000,000 worth of corporate securities owned in the north and east by a treasury department order to national banks to lend money on listed securities at not less than the closing quotations of July 30, 1914. The same administration, when asked to allow the people to use a quarter of a billion dollars of their collective credit for two or three years to save themselves from losing \$500,000,000 on their cotton crop, regarded valorization as violative of sound government.

"The president stood in the road and condemned the south, which made him, to heavier loss and more widespread misery than it has known in three generations. He vindicated an obsolete theory of political economy, but he might have ruined the country doing it."

While Scotland gave us John Muir, America educated him and furnished him the raw materials with which he made his fame.

The British subject cotton bales consigned to Germany to an X-ray examination for detection of guns and ammunition. If the Trojans had understood science the crafty Ulysses could have never fooled them with that wooden horse.

Our Banking Creed

We hold in reverence our trust of honor and integrity with each and all of those who transact business with this Bank.

We believe in the protection of the interests of our patrons and that their safety takes precedence over banking profits.

We uphold an unwritten law of courtesy, attention and efficient service to all our customers.

We believe in co-operating with all who are working for the betterment of our home community.

We believe in our country, in its glorious future, and in doing our humble share toward maintaining its high credit.

See Us for Special Terms on Time Deposits

Bank of Bradleyville

J. B. MILLS, President M. B. SLUSHER, Cashier
J. M. McPHERSON, Vice President

GOOD THINGS TO EAT

of course constitute the principal elements in the stock of a First Class Grocery Store. Not merely the Fancy Trimmings, but the Substantials must be Good. We have that kind of Eatables. We also have a good stock of

Table and Pocket Cutlery, Queensware, Graniteware, Lamps and Lanterns,

and a lot of Pretty Things suitable for Gifts—useful ones. Nuts, Candies and Christmas Candles.

If you trade with us once you will be a regular customer.

JAMES BROTHERS,
UP-TO-DATE GROCERS,

Forsyth, - - - Missouri

The Hull Hotel,

G. A. HULL, Proprietor

One-Half Block South of the Court House.

Rates \$1.00 per Day

First Class Accommodations.

A Good Feed Stable in Connection.

1883 1915

Chas. H. Groom,
Abstracter of Titles.

Forsyth, Missouri.

Have the Only Abstract Records to Taney County Lands. Attorney and Notary in the Office.

Special Attention to Drawing Deeds and Mortgages, Taking Acknowledgments, Depositions and Entering Protests.

T. J. Vanzandt,
Barber and Jeweler,

Forsyth, Missouri.

Only first class workmen employed and all work is guaranteed to give satisfaction. Clean towels for each and every customer.

If you have a watch or clock that needs cleaning or repairing, or any jewelry that needs repairing, bring them in and I will fix them up for you.